



ADHS Sensory Screening Program

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General Questions:

Who can I contact for additional information?

Please email sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446 for additional questions or assistance.

Where can I access general information about the ADHS Sensory Screening Program?

General program information and all program updates can be found on the [ADHS Sensory Program website](#).

Where can I locate the Hearing and Vision Screening Rules?

[Hearing Screening Rules](#)

[Vision Screening Mandate](#)

[Vision Rulemaking Updates](#)

General Screening Requirements:**Do I need to be certified to conduct hearing and vision screenings?**

School based hearing screenings must be performed by or under the supervision of an ADHS certified sensory screener. Non-certified individuals can only perform pure tone hearing screening under the direct supervision of an ADHS certified screener.

There is no requirement for an ADHS vision screening certification until the vision screening rules are in place.

For children who have special needs it can be challenging to perform hearing and vision screenings. What can be done in these situations?

Utilize the OAE and SPOT machines to try to obtain the screening data. It is also important to refer back to their physician for any documentation if available.

Do special education students have to be screened within 45 day of the start of school?

Please refer to the requirements for hearing and vision screening for Special Education and IEP's outlined in [A.R.S. Title 15, Chapter 7, Article 4 and A.A.C. R7-2-401](#).

Hearing Screening**Where can I find the revised hearing screening rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1?**

Hearing screenings Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective 7/3/19. Please click the link : https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-13.pdf

What populations are required to be screened for Hearing & Vision?

The required **Hearing Screening** Population can be found in [9 A.A.C. 13 Article 1](#). Table 13.1 found on page 14 of the document outlines the populations. A summary is below:

A. Students Included in Hearing Screening Population	
Every student: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who did not pass a hearing rescreening given to the student during the previous school year;• For whom the school does not have any documentation that the student has previously had a hearing screening;• Who is repeating a grade; and• For whom one of the following requests a hearing screening:<ul style="list-style-type: none">◦ The student, the student's parent, a teacher, a school nurse, a school psychologist, an audiologist, a specialist, a speech-language pathologist, a medical physician, an osteopathic physician, or the Department.	
Every enrolled student	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Education (All grades)• Preschool,• Kindergarten,• Grade 1,• Grade 3,• Grade 5,• Grade 7,• Grade 9
Every enrolled student for whom the school <u>does not</u> have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Documentation that the student received and passed a hearing screening in or after the previous grade (* in or after grade 9).b. Documentation that meets the requirements in subsection (B).	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Grade 2,• Grade 4,• Grade 6,• Grade 8• Grades 10, 11, and 12*
B. Students Not Included in Hearing Screening Population	
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. A student who is at least 16 years of age and has requested not to receive a hearing screening according to A.R.S. § 36-899.01.2. A student who is deaf or hard of hearing.3. A student has documentation of a hearing evaluation within the last 12 months that meets the criteria in R9-13-102.B.24. A student's whose parent has objected to the student receiving a hearing screening, specified in A.R.S. § 36-899.04.5. A student enrolled in a child care facility regulated pursuant to A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 7.1, Child Care Programs.	

What are the criteria to become a hearing screener?

Eligibility Criteria

1. The individual is an audiologist, or
2. The individual:
 - a. Is at least 18 years old and
 - b. Has a high school diploma or GED and
 - c. Can recognize a student's response to the required tones, and
 - d. Has received a certificate of completion from the ADHS Sensory Screening Program:

Certification process

1. Complete an instruction course taught by a certified trainer and
2. Pass course exam with a score of 80% or more, and
3. Demonstrate competency using the screening equipment

What are the criteria to apply to become a trainer?

Hearing Rules outline the requirements for trainer application and certification:

Eligibility Criteria

Education		Experience
Has completed at least 30 semester credits at an accredited college or university related to audiology and speech-language pathology	and	Has completed at least 100 hearing screenings within the previous 12 months from the date of request
Has completed at least two years of employment in a position directly related to and providing assistance in the practice of audiology and speech-language pathology		
Is currently licensed in this state as an audiologist according to A.R.S. Title 36, Chapter 17;	and	Has completed at least 25 hearing screenings within the previous 12 months from the date of request
Is currently a screener who has maintained a hearing screener certificate of completion for the previous five years.	and	Has completed 3,000 hearing screenings within the previous five years from the date of request

Certification Process

1. Submit a Trainer Certificate of Completion Request to the department,
2. Complete a trainer instruction course,
3. Pass course exam with 80% or more, and
4. Complete a hearing screening training observation

I took the hearing training before Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective, is my certificate still valid for 5 years?

The revised Hearing screenings Rules 9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 became effective 7/3/19 and applies to all schools (public, charter and private) as defined in ARS §15-101. Screener certificates should have been renewed prior to June 30, 2020 in accordance with this revision. For more information, refer page 13 of https://apps.azsos.gov/public_services/Title_09/9-13.pdf

Vision Screening:

Is vision screening mandatory for schools?

Vision rules have not yet been finalized. Senate Bill 1456: Child Hearing and Vision Program became effective 8/17/19. This bill requires vision screening of children in Arizona upon initial entry to school with two other subsequent screenings. Rulemaking for vision screening is currently in the process of being established.

When will vision rules go into effect?

We don't yet have an anticipated effective date for the vision rules.

How long will we have to prepare once vision rules are in effect?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program will establish a timeline for implementation that will support schools in being able to implement newly approved vision rules.

What is the referral criteria for a vision screening?

Program should refer to the test specific passing criteria as determined by the manufacturer.

What are the recommended vision screening methods?

Recommended vision screening methods populations can be found in the table below:

<u>ANNUALLY</u> Children ages 9 and younger (Preschool, Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th grade)	<u>BIANNUALLY</u> Children ages 10 and older (5th grade and up)
Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HOTV Letters• LEA Symbols• Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)	Distance Visual Acuity <ul style="list-style-type: none">• HOTV Letters• LEA Symbols• Sloan Letters (Start using once child is 6 years of age)
Stereoacuity	Near Vision Acuity

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Random Dot “E” • Butterfly Test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HOTV Letters • LEA Symbols
Color Deficiency (only conducted once) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pseudoisochromatic plates 	

- Instrument-based screening (autorefractors or photoscreeners) should only be used to screen the following population(s):
 - Children between the ages of 1 and 6 years of age OR,
 - Children over the age of 6 who cannot participate in chart-based screenings
- The only acceptable autorefractors/photoscreeners are:
 - Welch Allyn® Spot™ Vision Screener
 - Plusoptix S12C Vision Screener
 - Retinomax (Right Mfg. Co Ltd.- Tokyo, Japan)
 - SureSight Vision Screener (SureSight) (Welch-Allyn, Inc.- Skaneateles Falls, NY) (Software version 2.25)
- Additional screenings beyond these guidelines are encouraged if time and resources are available. If at all possible, an annual vision screening is recommended up to and including children in fourth grade to identify vision problems early when correction and measures to preserve sight can be most effective.

Do we need to submit annual reports for vision screenings?

Vision screening reporting is not mandatory until vision rules are established, but we encourage all schools to screen and submit an annual vision report electronically.

Certification & CEU's:

How long is my hearing or vision certification valid?

Hearing Screening certifications are valid for 4 years along with completion of two CEUs per year. With the adoption of the vision rules, vision screening certifications will be valid for 4 years.

I completed my hearing and vision training from an independent trainer. When I can expect my certificate from ADHS Sensory Program?

Currently, ADHS Sensory Program is processing a certificate within 30 days from the date of receiving the training roster from the trainer.

I didn't receive my certificate after the training.

The Sensory Screening program works to process rosters and send certificates within 30 days of receiving them from trainers. If it has been more than 30 days since your training, please email sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov or call 602-364-2446. Please provide the trainer name, training type (hearing/vision), training date and location of your training.

What is a CEU?

CEU stands for a Continuing Education Unit which is defined as a course that provides instruction and training that is designed to develop or improve a trainer or screener's professional competence. The course must be 50 to 60 minutes of continuous course work.

How many CEUs do I have to complete?

All Hearing Trainers and Screeners are required to complete Continuing Education Units to be eligible for recertification per A.A.C. R9-13-108 and R9-13-113.

Designation	Certificate Expiration	CEUs Required
Screener who <u>is not</u> an audiologist	4 years	2 units each year
Trainer who is an audiologist	5 years	20 units every two years
Trainer who <u>is not</u> an audiologist	5 years	10 units each year

What topic should the CEUs discuss?

Courses must be 50 to 60 minutes of continuous course work discussing any of the following topics related to pediatric populations:	
Development of speech and language	Anatomy and physiology of the ear
Signs of hearing loss in children	Prevention of hearing loss in children
Otitis media	Infection Control
Auditory Development	Assistive listening devices
Ethics	Unilateral hearing loss
Rationale for early identification of hearing loss	Hearing screening equipment (Pure-Tone Audiometer, Otoacoustic Emissions (OAE), or Tympanometry)

What CEUs are acceptable for Hearing Trainers/Screeners?

CEU courses developed, endorsed, or sponsored by one of the following organizations or any organization determined by the Program to be equivalent:	
International Institute for Hearing Instruments	American Speech-Language-Hearing Association

Studies	(ASHA
Academy of Doctors of Audiology	American Academy of Audiology
American Auditory Society	Hearing Healthcare Providers of Arizona
International Hearing Society	Arizona Speech-Language-Hearing Association
Arizona Society of Otolaryngology, Head, and Neck Surgery	American Academy of Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

What do I do once I have completed the necessary CEUs?

Hearing Trainers/Screeners should maintain a record of their completed CEUs to supply proof of completion when renewing certification per R9-13-109 and R9-13-112.

What are the CEU requirements for Vision Trainers/Screeners?

There are currently NO requirements for Vision Trainers/Screeners to complete CEUs at this time.

Training:

What changes are being made to the ADHS Sensory Screener Training?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program has established a **free**, statewide hearing and vision screening training program and is working to convert the hearing and vision screening curriculum to an online platform to make virtual training an option.

All training for the ADHS screener certification will now be provided through the awarded contractor and subcontractor agreements rather than independent trainers.

Why are these changes being made?

The Sensory Screening Program has received feedback from the community that the existing hearing and vision training process can be expensive and difficult to access. This causes an undue burden to schools and community partners who are providing required screening services across the State of Arizona.

These changes will make training more accessible and feasible for schools and community partners and further support the goals of the Sensory Screening Program.

When does this change take effect?

Beginning **March 13, 2023**, to become an ADHS certified hearing or vision screener, training must be scheduled through and provided by the awarded contractor. **These trainings will be free of charge to all participants.**

Who can access the free training?

Training will be open to school support personnel, early childhood professionals, and members of the public interested in learning how to perform hearing and vision screenings. There will be

no fee to participants for training. The Arizona Department of Health Services will pay the Contractor directly to carry out the Scope of Work.

Will training be offered in person or online?

There will be options for fully in person training as well as virtual course work with an in person practical component.

Who will provide screener certificates? The ADHS or the Contractor?

Screener certificates will continue to be provided by the ADHS Sensory Screening Program.

Where can I access the training schedule?

A calendar of scheduled trainings will be available on the ADHS Sensory Screening Program website at:

<https://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/cyshcn/index.php#sensory-training>

How do I schedule screener recertification training?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program is not currently offering a separate recertification training.

Reporting:

When do I need to submit the annual report?

The ADHS Sensory Screening annual report is open for submission from April 1 - June 30 each year.

How to submit a hearing/vision screening annual report?

Once you have entered the necessary information in the Report Form you will click "SUBMIT." Another screen will appear thanking you for your submission and you will be able to download a summary of your response. Please see the example listed below:



Hearing Screening Report 2020-2021 School Year

We thank you for your time spent taking this survey.
Your response has been recorded.

Below is a summary of your responses

[Download PDF](#)

This survey is **only** for new reports for School Year 2020-2021 and if changes need to be made for a report from a previous school year please contact the Sensory Screening Program at sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov. DO NOT RE-ENTER THE INFORMATION.

Sensory Loaner Equipment Program:

How do I reserve hearing and vision screening equipment?

ADHS Sensory Loaner Equipment program is available online for certified trainers and certified screeners to reserve and check out sensory equipment. Loaner sites throughout the state including Phoenix, Sedona, Yuma and Tucson. To reserve sensory screening equipment from any of our loaner sites go to [Online Equipment Reservations](#).

Is there ever any way for us to reserve for longer than the two weeks?

ADHS Sensory program is currently approving equipment reservations for a max of 2 weeks.

Vision Kits:**Are there any vision kits available?**

Vision kits will be made available in phases as funding allows. Announcements will be posted to the Sensory Screening Program website when kits are available.

Am I eligible to sign up for a vision kit?

The following criteria must be met:

- Be a “school” according to ARS §36-899.10: a school district or charter school that provides instruction in preschool or kindergarten programs and grades one through twelve, or any combination of those programs or grades OR
- Be a “private school” according to ARS 15-101 and ARS 15-802: mean a nonpublic institution where instruction is imparted and means a nonpublic institutions, other than the child’s home, where academic instruction is provide for at least the same number of days and hours each year as a public school OR
- Early Childhood Programs that serve children from birth to five years of age that provide early childhood education, nutrition, health, mental health, disabilities, and social services that are conducting sensory screening. For example: First Things First, Head Start, and Chicanos Por La Causa.
- At least one representative from each entity must be currently certified by successfully completing the ADHS-approved vision screening training course.
- Entities must not have not received their max allotment of Vision Kits from the Sensory Screening Program.

What is in the vision kit?

The Vision Kit is obtained through School Health and contains the following:

- AAPOS Vision Screening Kit: Supplemental Screening Package
- LEA Symbols Proportional-Spaced Set
- Sloan Letters Proportionally-Spaced 9” x 14”, 10 Ft. Distance Chart
- Hand Pointers, 15”

- Tape Measure
- Eyes Checked Stickers - 100/Roll

Are vision kits being provided to individual ADHS certified vision screeners?

The Sensory Screening Program is no longer supplying Vision Kits to individual ADHS Certified Vision Screeners.

How does our school district/charter holder obtain a vision kit?

One person from the school district, charter holder, private schools, and/or early childhood program should sign up to receive a Vision Kit for each of the schools and/or locations within the school and/or organization.

How many vision kits can the school district/charter holder receive?

The ADHS Sensory Screening Program has a limited number of Vision Kit(s) available. We ask that the district, charter, private school and/or organization sign up for one Vision Kit per school and/or location. The Sensory Screening Program will do its best to accommodate this.

What happens if my school's vision kit goes missing or is damaged?

ADHS is not responsible for any lost or damaged Vision Kits after they have been picked up.

Additional Resources:

Resources for eye exams/prescription glasses:

1. Please click the link to the Medical Service Project funded by the Arizona Department of Health Services that is administered by the Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics.
<https://www.azdhs.gov/prevention/womens-childrens-health/ocshcn/index.php#medical-service-project>
2. Lions Clubs International provides financial assistance to individuals for eye care through its local clubs. Please click the link to see the club locator near you :
<https://directory.lionsclubs.org/>
3. Sight for Students, a Vision Service Plan (VSP) program, provides eye free exams and free glasses to low-income, uninsured children. The program operates nationally through a network of community partners who identify children in need and VSP network eye doctors who provide the services. More Info: Please click the link below:
<https://vspglobal.com/cms/vspglobal-outreach/gift-certificates.html>
4. New Eyes is a non-profit, non-sectarian volunteer organization that purchases new eyeglasses for poor children and adults in the United States. Please click the link below:
<https://new-eyes.org/>

Resources for hearing screening and hearing aids:

1. Is the child enrolled in an AHCCCS or Kids Care Plan?
 - a. If NOT, they are eligible for other programs listed below based on their criteria. In case they are already enrolled, the child may be eligible for hearing services through Children's Rehabilitative Services (CRS). More Information:
<https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/Initiatives/CareCoordination/CRS.html>
2. Hear for Kids: HEAR for Kids is a program of the EAR Foundation of Arizona. Eligibility is based on family income, household size/dependent care, and expenses. If the child is covered by AHCCCS or Kids Care or other insurance that covers hearing aids, they are not eligible for HEAR for Kids. Children must be currently living in Arizona to be eligible. Applications can be downloaded on the EAR Foundation website at www.earfoundationaz.com
3. United HealthCare Children's Foundation: Applications and further information on criteria and services can be found at the link below or by calling 1 (855-698-4223). Website: www.uhccf.org
4. Starkey Foundation's HEAR Now Program: application process / more info call 1(800) 328-9602 Website: www.sotheworldmayhear.org
5. Lions Affordable Hearing Aid Program (AHAP) : More info and eligibility : <https://temp.lionsclubs.org/SW/pdfs/lcif/lcif127.pdf>. You can also contact a club near you by going to the Lions International website: www.lionsclubs.org
6. Sertoma Clubs: There are some Sertoma clubs in Arizona. More info, please visit their website: <https://sertoma.org/> or call: 816-333-8300
7. Help America Hear: Help America Hear is proud to offer the Help America Hear Program which provides NEW high quality hearing aids Nationwide to men, women, and children with limited financial resources. More Info and eligibility, please visit: <https://helpamericahear.org/> or call : (888) 580-8886